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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

MAEGAWA et al.

Art Unit: 2161

MAY 28 2002

Application No.: 09/148,832

Examiner: J. Hayes

Technology Center 2100

Filed: September 4, 1998

Atty Docket No. 103203-08003

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD, AND RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH DISTRIBUTION USE DATA IS RECORDED AND WHICH CAN BE READ BY COMPUTER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

May 24, 2002

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits for the above-identified Continued Prosecution Application, please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 2, 18, and 35, and add new claim 51 as follows:

2) (Once Amended) A network system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary relating to charging for a transaction of said content,

 said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and

 said transaction management means has a charging processing means for carrying out processing based on said information relating to charging every time content delineated by said boundary is newly substantially acquired by said data utilization means.

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